

SOAR Syllabus - 8th grade Social Studies

Course Description/Goals:

This course introduces students to key moments in United States history, from the Colonial period through Reconstruction, while focusing on developing essential life skills. Students will engage with simplified historical readings, visuals, and hands-on activities designed to support their academic growth and foster communication, social, and functional skills. Structured teaching strategies, such as discrete trial training, pivotal response training, and functional routines, will be used to ensure that students practice prerequisite skills in a supportive environment.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

The course is designed for students who are working on prerequisite academic skills aligned with the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). Through the use of structured teaching strategies—including discrete trial training, pivotal response training, and functional routines—the program supports the development of academic, communication, social, and functional skills. Instruction is individualized, highly structured, and supported with visual aids and hands-on learning opportunities to promote understanding and engagement.

Course objectives include:

Standards-Based Instruction: Deliver instruction grounded in TEKS to ensure students have access to grade-level academic expectations tailored to their developmental level.

Individualized Learning: Address the unique strengths, needs, and learning styles of each student through personalized instructional plans and data-driven progress monitoring.

Skill Development: Promote measurable growth in communication, social interaction, independence, and daily living skills using research-based behavioral strategies.

Generalization of Skills: Support the application of learned skills across settings, people, and materials to foster real-world success and increased independence.

Collaboration: Foster collaboration among educators, families, and related service providers to ensure alignment of goals and meaningful mainstream opportunities, when appropriate.

This curriculum is implemented with fidelity to meet the diverse needs of students with communication needs and ensures equitable access to high-quality instruction.

Course Outline:

Semester 1	Semester 2
August Back to School September All About Me October Nutrition November Music December Community Signs	January Money February Weather March Literature April Gardening May Sports